THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Deployment of Indian troops along the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir is a permanent feature to ensure its sanctity as also to check infiltration.

As a result of mobilisation of Indian Army along the International Border, during 'OP PARAKRAM', our defensive deploymnet has further enhanced our effectiveness to check infiltration from across the International Border.

(b) The deploymnet of troops on the borders will continue till such time Government's aim with regard to cross border terrorism is achieved.

Indigenous production of mines

1514. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the operational preparedness of the Navy has been affected due to the failure of DRDO to achieve indigenous production of mines for it; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Government had sanctioned four projects of sea mines. Three projects led to production after successful developmnet. The fourt project did not achieve all the objectives and it was partially successful. The total cost of all these projects was Rs. 2.145 crore only.

Compensation to land mine victims

1515. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated loss of human lives and livestock in border areas of Rajasthan, Gujarat, Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir where land mines have been laid by the armed forces;

(b) whether the loss have been adequately compensated, if so, the amount paid so far and how much is yet to be paid; and

(c) what mechanism has been evolved to ensure that each and every effected person received due compensation?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) As per information available with the Army, 73 persons (60 army personnel and 13 civilians) have lost their lives and 216 persons (132 army personnel & 84 civilians) have been injured in mine related accidents.

(b) and (c) Out of the amount of Rs. 83.55 crore sanctioned so far, an amount of Rs. 37.60 crore has since been reimbursed as compensation to the affected persons for the loss/damage of crop due to laying of mines by the Army. The Board of Officers of the Army along with the representatives of the local revenue authorities carry out the requisite surveys and recommend the assessed amount of compensation to the concerned authorities for this pupose.

Damage to standing crops in the border areas due to deployment of army

1516. SHRI HARENDRA SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that the standing crops of border areas has been destroyed in various States due to deployment of army;

(b) If so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have provided any compensation and financial assistance to the affected farmers;

(d) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(e) whether the above compensation/financial assistance are sufficient;

(f) if not, whether Government are considering to provide more compensation and financial assistance to the farmers;

(g) if so, the details thereof; and

(h) if not, thereasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (h) Reports of damages to the standing crops of the farmers/ people residing in the border areas of Rajasthan, Punjab and J&K due to current mobilization of troops in these areas, have come to the notice of the Government.